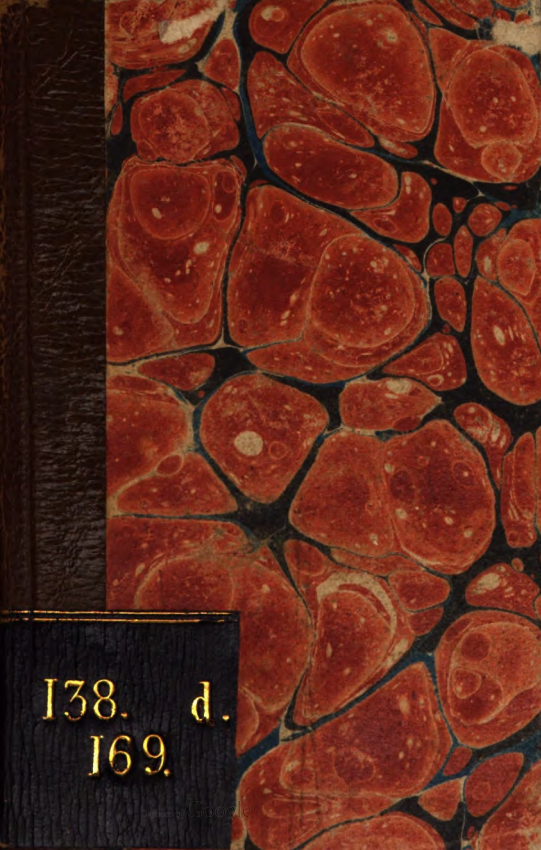

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The image shows the front cover of an old book. The main part of the cover is decorated with a marbled paper pattern consisting of large, irregular, reddish-brown shapes separated by dark blue or black lines. To the left of this is a dark, textured spine. At the bottom left, there is a dark, rectangular label with gold-colored text.

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MANUAL
FOR
CONFESSION.

Be not ashamed to confess thy sins.—Ecclus. iv. 26.

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MANUAL FOR CONFESSION.

MANY of those who use Confession, use it with but little devotion or heartfelt contrition; and as they come not to the ordinance with proper dispositions, they in consequence derive little, or no benefit from its use. Now whoever has committed a deadly sin, has the gates of Paradise closed against him. But, in this holy Ordinance, our Saviour Christ has deposited His most precious blood, to be a life giving fountain, to wash our souls from the filth of sin, to heal them of their wounds, to strengthen and comfort them in their weaknesses and infirmities, and to enrich them with His grace. **CHRIST'S** most precious Blood is thus applied to all those souls, who come to Confession with proper dispositions.

How good it is of God that He should suffer us thus again to enter Paradise, which w

had lost through our own fault. See what a cost our Saviour was at, that He might institute this sacrament of Reconciliation ; no less a price than that of His own Life Blood shed upon the Cross. But to enable you to reap the benefit of all His passion, what is required ? only Repentance and Faith, a real heartfelt sorrow for sin ; a simple and unfeigned trust in the all-atoning blood of Christ ; with a full purpose of future amendment.

And yet Christians are really so negligent in coming to Confession for pardon and peace thus given, that it would seem as though they set no value on this blessed means of applying to their souls the precious Blood of the Son of God.

Go often then to Confession, and if you should have the grievous misfortune to fall in to deadly sin, go *at once*. Do not, do not think of living for one single moment in mortal sin ; lest death should come upon you whilst in this state, and cast you into hell-fire for eternity. By means of a good Confession, with Repentance and Faith, the soul is again freed

from the bondage of the devil ; the chains are broken, you become again the child of God, and are restored to God's grace which was lost by sin ; and you obtain strength to keep you from falling again. There is joy in heaven when a sinner thus repents and turns to God with all his heart.

But even though not conscious of any grave offence, go to Confession often, for by frequent and good confessions our souls become stronger and stronger, we obtain fresh light, and great increase of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Go often, for thus you will be better disposed to receive more grace, you will get new light by which to see the temptations of Satan, and you will have given you, strength to overcome them ; thus being daily purified more and more from all faults and imperfections, you will make great progress in holiness. The Saints made frequent use of Confession, some of them being not content, except they received absolution for their sins every day. To go on some certain day every week to Confession, is a very good rule. But remember, if you

would make profitable and good use of this Holy Ordinance, you must go with proper dispositions. Now the requisites for a good Confession are as follows,—strict Examination of Conscience,—Sorrow for Sin,—unfeigned Faith in the Blood of Christ,—full purpose of Amendment,—a full Confession of all your sins,—performance of the Penance enjoined by the Priest.

SELF-EXAMINATION.

In order that you may make a good Confession, first earnestly commend the matter to God by prayer, and that some days beforehand, especially if you have been living in sin. In order to assist your memory get if possible, some form of self-examination, or if able to do without this help, take the Ten Commandments, one by one, examining yourself upon each, in thought, word, and deed; noting, as well as you can, how often you have offended against each commandment.

You may likewise examine yourself upon the seven deadly sins, Pride, Covetousness, Gluttony, Lust, Anger, Envy, Sloth.—Do not be content with observing when you have grossly offended, but look strictly into how far you in the least way listened and gave way to temptation: and that you may remember your sins the better, think over where you have been, and in whose company: what you have been employed about, since your last time of Confession. When you have finished your examination, imprint fixedly in your mind each sin of which you have been guilty, and the occasions of it, whether it be sin of commission or of omission, and this you cannot do better than by placing each sin before God, and begging of Him true contrition for having done it.

SORROW FOR SINS.

When you have finished your self-examination, do not think you have done all that is necessary for you, in order to be rightly pre-

pared for Confession. The greatest part of the work yet remains to be done. This is, to have a true sorrow and contrition of heart for the sins we have committed. For want of this sorrow and contrition, many a one's Confession, instead of being pleasing to God, is rendered abhorrent in His sight. In order to obtain this hearty sorrow, you must earnestly beg it of God, whose gift it is. That you may profitably do this, consider the goodness of God, how He created you out of nothing, how He prepared for you an eternal happiness ; how He gave you good dispositions, and the graces of His Spirit, to restrain you from sin, and draw you to goodness ; how He did not withhold even his only Son, but sent Him to die on the cross for you.

Think then on the fearful wickedness of sinning against so good a God. Think over the punishment of the Angels that sinned, how that they have no hope or chance of repentance. Think on the folly of choosing the torments of Hell for your portion, when God has purchased Heaven for you; and lastly,

meditate on the sufferings of Jesus Christ, on His agony in the garden, and His passion on the cross.

FAITH.

For the obtaining the full benefit of this holy ordinance, it is likewise requisite, that you should come with a full trust in God's mercy, through Christ; since it is to no purpose that the Son of God has shed His most precious Blood for us, unless we, on our part, have faith to lay hold on the atonement thus wrought for us. Sometimes sinners find that their sins have taken such hold of them that they are not able to look up; and their heart fails them, because of their iniquities. In such cases, nay in every case, pray unto God for His gift of Faith, and at the same time strive to correspond with the divine grace, by lifting up of your despondent heart, and saying, "Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief." Meditate too on the all-sufficiency of the atoning Blood of Jesus; that

there is no sin so deep, but that its guilt may be clean washed away by that Blood; no number of sins so vast as to be incapable of forgiveness. Remember the words of Christ “who-soever believeth on me hath everlasting Life,” and “him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out.” Meditate on the love of God, who not only has given His Son to die for you, but is willing with Him freely to give you all things; then cast yourself with full confidence on Him who loved you, and gave Himself for you to redeem you from all iniquity; who came *to save sinners*, and to wash you clean in His most precious Blood.

AMENDMENT OF LIFE.

After having examined yourself by the Rule of God's Commandments, bewailing your own sinfulness, in thought, word, and deed, remember that you must not only make a general resolution of Amendment, without which you will find it impossible to exercise any real living faith in the Redeemer's Blood; but you should also diligently search out

what are the occasions of your sins ; in order that you may get out of the way of temptation. Unless you honestly resolve to avoid occasions of sin, your resolutions of Amendment will be all useless and vain. To go to Confession without this full purpose of Amendment, would be nothing else than to draw down God's anger upon you. Remember also, that your purpose must not be wavering and unsteady, but firm and fixed. Again, you must not only resolve against one or two particular sins, but against all sin of whatsoever sort or kind. Unless you do this, your sorrow will be merely lip-sorrow, your wavering purpose of amendment worthless and unreal, and your Confession consequently bad.

THE CONFESSION

must be entire. You must not hide any sins, which you can remember, not even those which you may consider light sins ; much less any great and deadly sins. To conceal wilfully any deadly sin is most grievous sacrilege.

Whatsoever lies at all on your conscience must be confessed. Be as exact as possible, as to the number of times each sin has been committed, relating also any circumstances which may have aggravated the sin. Be careful never to make excuse for any sin, as though the temptation had been so great, as to make it impossible for you to overcome it. If you should find difficulty in confessing any sin, tell your Confessor you have something on your mind, which you find it hard to tell. Some persons from a false shame, conceal the very thing which is gnawing them to the heart, and infecting their whole soul with its most deadly poison : Oh, what senseless folly is this ! Tell your Confessor of this viper which is in your bosom, and he will assist you to draw it out, and to destroy all its venomous fangs. Remember that he is your spiritual father, and as such, cares tenderly for your soul, and has been expressly appointed by Christ, to help poor sinners, and direct them to the means of overcoming their sins.

PENANCE.

After your Confession is completed, listen with meekness to the advice of your Confessor, and whatsoever Penance he imposes on you, accept with thankfulness, knowing that it is much less than you deserve. In the primitive Church there was a godly discipline, that such persons as stood convicted of notorious sin were put to open Penance, and punished in this world, that their souls might be saved in the day of the Lord. At present however this severe method of Penance is not used by the Church. Still however you must not suppose, that sin is of less account in the sight of God : the wickedness of sin is as great as ever, but the love of Christians to God has waxed very cold. If it were not so, they would be only too glad of having something really hard imposed on them for Penance. Whatever therefore you have imposed on you, perform as soon as you are able, with real penitence and devotion.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONFESSION.

On the morning of the day on which you purpose to make your Confession, let it be your first prayer, that God would help and fit you for a proper reception of this holy Ordinance. If you are able, go to the Church, and there placing yourself in the immediate presence of God, pray him to enlighten your understanding, that you may know your true state before Him. Here are some prayers which may be a help to you ; but take great care, that you do not use them merely as a form ; let them be heart prayers too, or else to use them will only hinder you, and keep you back.

PRAYER BEFORE EXAMINATION.

Oh my God, most merciful, most good, I come once again before Thee, covered with shame for all my sins and ingratitude. How have I wearied Thee ! and yet Thou hast not been tired of calling me to return to Thee. Behold now O Lord, I desire to obey Thy voice, and to come after Thee. But O my

God! when I strive to come unto Thee, my many sins cling round me, and hinder my steps. It is indeed easy to go astray from Thee, but how to return I know not. I cannot do it, except Thou give it me. My heart is deceitful above all things, and if I try to search it without Thy heavenly light, Oh! how miserably shall I deceive myself. Do Thou, gracious Lord, take away the veil which hides my sins from me. Let me see them, as they are seen by Thee, that I may detest them, and flee from them. Try me, O Lord, and search the ground of my heart, look well if there be any way of wickedness in me. Shew unto me, not my presumptuous sins only, but those which are secret and hidden from me; shew me them O Lord, that I may confess them, and obtain from Thee Thy gracious pardon. Thou hast said, that if my sins be as scarlet, Thou wilt make them as white as snow. Oh! let me not lose the benefit of Thy Son's most precious Blood, from sloth in searching out my sins, and laying them before Thee; but help me, for Thy mer-

cy's sake, that I may be again restored to the full possession of Thy love ; through the same Thy blessed Son, JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

Having prayed to God to enlighten your understanding, and bring back your sins to your memory, collect yourself, and proceed with all diligence to examine all your thoughts, words, and deeds ; especially keeping those things in mind, by which you most frequently offend God, or your neighbour. Be careful not to forget any of the sins you have thus discovered ; and if you do not know the number of times you have committed any sin, at least ascertain the length of time, in which you did it frequently ; in order that you may give to your Confessor some idea of the extent of your sin. Having completed your examination make an act of Sorrow.

A PRAYER FOR OBTAINING TRUE SORROW OF HEART.

Oh my Lord ! I have now before my eyes a sad prospect of the fearful sins I have done

against Thee. In pity look down upon Thy servant, and heal my soul, for I have miserably sinned against Thee. Thy blessings and benefits I have abused ; Thy judgments and punishments not feared ; I have too often neglected the means of my Salvation, and thus provoked Thee to cast me off for ever. And when I have done all this against Thee, and behaved myself frowardly in Thy covenant, when I know how miserably I have sinned against Thee, yet I have no sorrow as I should have ; I know my sins, but my hard heart cares not for having offended Thee. O Lord, do Thou break the stony heart within me, and give me a heart of flesh. A broken and a contrite heart Thou wilt not despise, and Thou alone canst give it me. Without Thy helping hand, all my endeavours will be in vain. Thou alone canst give repentance, and accept the penitent ; do both most gracious Father, that I may be once more acquitted from the guilt of all my sins, and received into the number of Thy servants, Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**MEDITATION BEFORE CONFESSION,
IN ORDER TO EXCITE A TRUE SOR-
ROW FOR HAVING OFFENDED GOD.**

Consider, O my soul, what God has done for thee. He it is who created thee, and bought for thee an everlasting mansion amongst the blest. He it is who daily sustains thee, and gives thee freely the power of loving and serving Him; nay, much more has God done than this for thee. When thou wast lost, and in danger of eternal death, He it is who came down from Heaven, and was made man. For thee He took upon Him the form of a servant; yes, even thy God took the form of a servant, being Lord of all. Not with corruptible things did He purchase thee, but with His own Blood. What could he have done for thee more than He has done. O my soul look over the mis-spent years, and ask what hast thou done for God; then look what He hath done for thee. He has loaded thee with His benefits, and thou hast loaded Him with thy sins. Is this a fit reward for all the benefits that He hath done

unto Thee? Is this thy thankfulness? Is this thy love unto thy God? Oh! how little hast thou loved Him? what follies and trifles have drawn away thy heart from Him? Thou hast preferred the husks of the swine to the love of thy God. Oh! wretched choice! Oh! miserable delusion! Let it be no longer thy choice, but repent and amend.

Consider again, O my soul, the infinite wickedness of sin. How many glorious bright angels were converted by sin into hideous devils, and imps of Hell. Alas! my soul! how wretched must be thy state, if thou shouldst continue in sin. How horribly foul and loathsome in the sight of God is a Soul in mortal sin. It is all wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores. O my soul, let not such a state be thine, but flee away far from it.

Consider, O my soul, the multitude and heinousness of thy sins, Oh! how great in number are they! more than the sands on the sea shore. Not one day hast thou passed of all thy life free from sin. Oh how early didst thou fall away from God; which of thy

soul's powers hast thou not defiled ; thou hast abused the gifts of God to thine own destruction. How often hast thou deserved to be in Hell ! How many souls, it may be, are already there for less sins than thou hast done ! and yet God has waited for thee to bring thee to repentance. How often has He called to thee, and thou hast not answered ; Oh what a return to make for all His love and goodness. Truly thou hast deserved hell a thousand times—Oh my soul, wouldst thou escape the punishment of hell ; return even now unto the Lord, and He has promised that He will abundantly pardon. Oh ! resolve never more to offend so good, so gracious a God.

Consider, O my soul, how shameful a return thou hast made to thy Saviour Jesus Christ. Look at His Sacred Body nailed to the cross, see His flesh, torn and mangled, dripping with Blood ; this is the work of thy sins. See, how thou hast smitten His cheeks with thy shameful and presumptuous sins. Thou hast made a crown of thorns with thine evil thoughts, and thrust it rudely on His head,

piercing His sacred temples, and causing the tears of Blood to trickle down His Face. By thine horrible uncleanness thou hast scourged His Body with the most painful stripes. See, if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow, wherewith thou hast afflicted Him. Thy sins have opened His wounds, and made them to bleed afresh, they have torn wider the rents in His hands and feet. Thou hast had no mercy upon His adorable Body ; thou hast tormented thy Saviour again and again with thy shameful lusts, making His Blood to flow in torrents from thy great vileness. Has He not suffered enough already, but must thou add to His shame, by trampling on His precious Blood. See, what He bore for thee. Behold Him exposed to the scoffs of the rabble, and the insults of the soldiers ; clothed in a fool's garment ; jeered at as a mock king ; vested in purple ; smitten on the head with a rod ; loaded with a heavy cross, and urged on, weak and fainting, to the Hill of Calvary ; stretched on the Cross between two thieves ; His eyes blind with Blood, His mouth drenched with vinegar

and gall, His ears filled with hootings of the mob, His face covered with the filthy spittle of those who mocked Him ; and all this He bore for love of thee. O my soul ; what hast thou done. What a reward hast thou given to thy God for all this love. He has loaded thee with His benefits, and thou hast loaded Him with thy sins—but He is even now pleading with thee and for thee ; do not resist His loving voice, grieve that thou hast so little sorrow for having done so much against Him. Cast thyself at the feet of thy crucified Saviour and strive to wash them with thy tears.

ACT OF SORROW FOR SIN,
WITH HOPE OF PARDON AND RE-
SOLUTION OF AMENDMENT.

O Almighty and merciful Lord, I come unto Thee once more, miserable and dejected on account of my sins. Alas ! what shall I do O Lord ? what shall I say ? my sins are more in number than the hairs of my head, and my heart would altogether fail me,

but for the multitude of Thy mercies. Since then Thou art merciful, O Lord, shew mercy unto me. Thou didst pity the Canaanitish woman, have pity upon me. Thou didst forgive the repentant thief, O Lord, forgive me. I confess myself a most miserable sinner. I confess my sins, O Lord, unto Thee, which, if I would, I could not hide from Thine allseeing eye. Father I have sinned against heaven and before Thee, and am not worthy to be called Thy child, I am not worthy of the least of all Thy mercies, but Thou art the same Lord whose property is always to forgive. Oh receive me as Thy servant, and let me not again go astray from Thee. To whom else should I flee unto but Thee. Thou art my Defender, Thou art my Helper, Thou art the Lifter up of my Head. It grieves me, O my God, that I have so offended Thee. How wickedly have I behaved myself in Thy sight. I have turned those things, which should have been for my wealth, into an occasion of falling. I have used Thy blessings to my own destruction. Most justly I have provoked Thy wrath and

indignation against me ; Oh ! that mine head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that day and night I might weep for the sins of my ingratitude !

Oh that I had never offended so good a God ! Happy those souls who have never lost their baptismal innocence ! Oh ! Blessed Saviour that I had been so happy ! Yet now Lord look upon my affliction and misery, and forgive me all my sins. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sins ; for I acknowledge mine iniquity, and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.

My sins are indeed great, but Thy mercies are greater. Lord, I lay them down at Thy feet, to be blotted out by my Saviour's Blood. Thou hast said that if our sins be as scarlet, Thou wilt make them as white as snow. Do Thou purge me O Lord, and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. O make me to hear of joy and gladness, that the bones which Thou broken may rejoice. Thou hast said there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, O give me that true

repentance. Thou camest not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance; look down upon me a poor sinner, and draw me by Thy grace; draw me and I will run after Thee. I know Thou wilt not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live; O be merciful to my sin for it is great. Let me not remain any more dead in sins, but grant me grace to live unto Thee. Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. I cannot change my heart of myself; do Thou change me, O Lord, and I shall be changed. From this moment I resolve to serve Thee in earnest. Thou art my Maker, and my Redeemer, despise not then the work of Thine own hands. O Lord Jesus, Thou hast shed Thy precious Blood for me, let it not be spilt in vain. Too late have I known Thee, O beauty ever ancient ever new. Too late have I loved Thee. Oh! may I never cease to love Thee. O Divine Love how little art Thou known! how little art Thou loved, come now, and take possession of my heart and soul; O Thou Divine Light eclipsing all other light; shine with Thy beaming radiance

upon my darkness. Shine within my soul, that the whole may be full of light and love, with no part dark. Oh how great is Thy mercy, in having called such an one as me to repentance, and now, O Lord I have sworn and am stedfastly purposed to keep Thy righteous judgments. In Thy strength will I go forward, for through Thee I can do all things. When I thought I was strong and stood well, then my foot slipped and I fell; but now I confess that I am weak, and Thy strength is made perfect in weakness. O stablish the thing that thou hast wrought in me. Thou hast begun a good work in me, Oh! perform it unto the end. Let me rather die than again turn my back on Thee. I am resolved to fly all evil companions, and dangerous occasions. Assist me by Thy grace to perform my vows. O undertake for me; grant that I may never betray Thee more. Pierce my flesh with Thy fear; wound my heart with Thy love, that I may walk in the way of Thy commandments all the days of my life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Having determined by God's Grace to take measures for an entire amendment of life, Consider first what have been the occasions of your sins ; and how you may best avoid not only the sins themselves, but all things which might lead to them, whether it be persons, places, or occupations, which are the danger. Consider what prayers and meditations and spiritual reading, &c. you must daily use, to strengthen your soul ; when and how often you must come to the sacraments, &c. When you find that you are really and heartily sorry for having offended God, and are fully resolved by God's grace to amend for the future, and likewise to avoid every thing that might lead you into sin, then with such dispositions you may go to Confession. Let no wandering thoughts accompany you thither, but keep yourself recollected, and if you have to wait, pass the time in sorrowful thought upon your great sinfulness, and in prayer that God would be pleased to pardon you through His minister ; and when you kneel down by the priest place yourself in the

presence of Almighty God, and remember that He is listening to your Confession; take care therefore to hide nothing from Him. You may deceive His minister but you cannot deceive Himself, and be sure He will not absolve you in Heaven, however by falsehood and deceit, you might obtain absolution from His minister on earth.

In confessing—you may follow this method; when you kneel down say secretly.—In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Then aloud :—

I confess to God the Father Almighty, and to His only begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and to God the Holy Ghost, and before the whole company of heaven, and before you my father, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, through my fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault, by,—

Then say, since my last Confession, at such and such a time, (naming the number of days, weeks, or months) I accuse myself, &c. Here accuse yourself of your sins, either according to the order of God's commandments, or such order as you shall find most assists your memory. If you have any serious offences, it is best to begin with them, explaining distinctly the kind of sin, the number of times you have been guilty, and telling such circumstances as may aggravate their guilt. Say if you live in any bad habit, or if you live in constant temptation, and danger of falling into sin. Mention also if there is any serious obligation, which you have neglected to perform; tell your Confessor all with sincerity, and as clearly as possible; but take care also to say nothing in excuse of your sin, or in self defence, and abstain from long narrations, which are not to the purpose. If you have no greivous sin to confess, accuse yourself of sins of omission, remembering that no sin is light in the eyes of God. It is not ill to make mention in such case of some great sin in

your past life. In all cases make clean your breast of all that is wrong, as though it were the last Confession you would ever make. When you have confessed all you can remember you may conclude as follows :—For these and all my other faults which I cannot at present remember I ask pardon of God, and of you, my ghostly father, penance and absolution. Wherefore I beg God the Father Almighty, and His Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and God the Holy Ghost, to pity me, and to have mercy upon me, and you my father to pray for me.

Whilst the priest absolves you, bow down your head with meekness, calling upon God for mercy, and praying Him to ratify the sentence. After Confession return again to your prayers, giving God humble and hearty thanks for His great mercy in thus again receiving you to His favour, and releasing you from your sins. Renew your resolutions of Amendment with more fervency and love than ever ; begging grace of the Lord to perform them to the full.

A PRAYER AFTER CONFESSION.

O my merciful God, how gracious, how loving art Thou ! What reward shall I render unto Thee for all the benefits that Thou hast done unto me. Thou hast forgiven the offence of Thy servant, and covered all my sin. Thou hast once more received me for Thine own, and called me Thy child, after so many times going astray. O good Jesu, O kind Jesu, I give Thee thanks from my inmost soul. Thou art indeed my Saviour ; Thou hast said unto my soul I am Thy salvation. How sweet are Thy words unto my lips. How sweet is Thy Name ; It is a Name above every Name. How shall I love Thee enough for all Thy gifts ? How shall I thank Thee for Thy precious Blood ? which Thou hast shed for me ; with which Thou hast washed me ; with which Thou hast redeemed me. Tender Jesu ! I offer unto Thee the heart, which Thou hast cleansed. I offer unto Thee my self, to love Thee and serve Thee all the days of my life. O Holy Spirit !

Lord of life and light ! Ocean of Love without a shore ! I dedicate myself unto Thee. Thou art my True Rest ; my only Refreshment. Come and inflame my heart with Thy burning fire ; O consume in me all earthly affections. Holy Trinity ! One God ! Mystery divine ! God of endless being ! which was, and is, and is to come, accept of Thy poor creature. Keep me and guide me for Thy Name's sake. Look on me a poor worm of earth, and shield me with Thy great strength ; shield me from the fiery darts of the wicked one. Leave me not to myself, but keep me close unto Thee. Why did I ever go away from Thee ? Grant that I may do so no more, I resolve henceforth to fly all occasions of sin ; all evil company. I resolve to be watchful over myself, and grateful towards Thee. I resolve to be regular in all my devotions ; to fly idle talk and too much laughter. I resolve to think only of Thee, my God, and to do all to Thy glory. Lord hear me ; Lord give me strength ; hold me by Thy hand ; guide my feeble steps, for I am poor and

weak. Only in Thy power can I do anything. Suffer me not to fall away, but give me ever increasing penitence, ever increasing faith in Thee, ever increasing love, that I may fulfil all Thy commandments even unto the end. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

If Absolution has been deferred.

A PRAYER.

O Lord and God ! how dreadful is this, that I am not fitly prepared for the pardon of my sins. It is too true I am not rightly penitent. Do Thou give me that spirit of true repentance, and take away all from my heart that separates me from Thee. How long shall I be without Thee. Let tears be my meat day and night, whilst Thou art absent from me. Oh assist me, by Thy grace, to a true sorrow for my sins, and a sincere resolution of Amendment. Oh ! my God, have mercy on me, succour me with Thy grace, or I am lost. I have wearied Thee, yet turn again once more after Thy servant, and let me live.

Create in me a new heart, and give me grace to renounce all sin, and obtain from Thee the full pardon of my offences. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Take care never to rest till you have obtained from God proper dispositions, that is true contrition of heart, with full purpose of amendment of life.

PRAYER FOR ONE OF A BROKEN SPIRIT.

O my God ! my God ! look upon me, why hast Thou forsaken me ? Why dost Thou hide Thy face from me ? Why dost Thou hold me for Thine enemy ? O hearken unto me, and have mercy upon me, lest if Thou make as though Thou hearest not, I become like unto them, that go down into the pit. Thou writest bitter things against me, and makest me to possess the iniquities of my youth. Thou callest all my sins to Thy remembrance. Thine indignation lieth hard upon me, and Thou hast vexed me with all Thy storms.

O that I might plead with God as a man pleadeth with his neighbour ; O that He would shew me wherein my great sin lies ! O that He would make me to know my transgression. Then would I call unto Him, and He should answer, I would cry early unto Him, and He should hear me. But now He layeth wait for me as a leopard. He searcheth out my sin, He looketh narrowly into my paths. I was at ease, but He hath broken me asunder. He hath shaken me to pieces and set me up for His mark. His archers compass me about, He cleaveth my reins asunder and doth not spare. He breaketh me with breach upon breach. He runneth upon me like a giant. He hath led me into a place of darkness. He hath shut out my light and my sun, and hath filled me with bitterness. He hath made me drunken with the wormwood of His wrath ; also I cry unto Him but He heareth not. The Lord hath shut out my prayer. Oh that I were as in the months past ; as in the days when God preserved me, when His candle shined upon my head, and

when by His light I walked through darkness. But now Thou hast removed my soul far from peace, Thou hast turned my light into darkness, and covered me with the shadow of death. Thou hast turned my joy into heaviness, and put off from me the garments of gladness. My face is foul with weeping, and mine eyelids are sore with the bitterness of my tears, my soul is weary of my life.

O my God, shew me wherefore Thou contendest with me. Is it good unto Thee, that Thou shouldest oppress the work of Thy hands? Wilt Thou make battle upon a worm, and fight with a thing of dust. Wilt Thou break the leaf driven to and fro, and wilt Thou pursue the dry stubble? O remember how short my time is, that I am a thing of nought, that I am even as a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again. Have pity on me O God; have pity on me, for Thou only art my Redeemer.

Thou shalt bring me out of the lowest pit, out of the place of darkness, and from the deep. Thou shalt set my foot upon the Rock, and order

my goings. Thou shalt put a new song in my mouth, even a song of Praise and Thanksgiving unto our God. Thou hast not forgotten to be gracious, neither is the mercy sealed up for ever. Thou wilt deal graciously unto Thy servant, according to Thy word. The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, and unto them that put their trust in His mercy. He will not always be chiding, neither keepeth He His anger for ever. Blessed be the Lord, who heareth us in the needful time of trouble, yea Blessed be the Lord. Amen and Amen.

Lord, of my heart, by Thy last cry,
Let not Thy Blood on earth be spent—
Lo ! at Thy feet I fainting lie,
Mine eyes upon Thy Wounds are bent—
Upon Thy streaming Wounds my weary eyes
Wait like the parched earth on April skies.

Wash me, and dry these bitter tears,
O let my heart no further roam,
'Tis Thine by vows, and hopes, and fears,
Long since—O call Thy wanderer home;
To that dear home, safe in Thy wounded Side,
Where only broken hearts their sin and shame
may hide.

END.

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